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VOL. I NO. 25

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1946.

Price-20 Cents

ONLY PROMPT UNO ACTION CAN AVERT ANOTHER FOOD CRISIS

LaGuardia Pleads For Financial Help To UNRRA-Aided Nations

China's Precarious Economic Position Stressed

WASHINGTON, OCT. 28.—DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CHINA'S ECONOMY IS MADE IN A REPORT SENT TO-DATE TO DR TRYGVE LIE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, BY MR. FIORELLO LAGUARDIA, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNRRA.

In his report, Mr. LaGuardia said that unless effective international assistance is planned immediately, the nations aided by UNRRA may face another food crisis in 1947. The report is for submission to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The report, entitled "Economic Recovery in Countries Assisted by UNRRA," was made at the request of the United Nations Assembly and contains a detailed analysis of the economies of Italy, China, Yugo-Slavia, Austria, Albania, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

"Food deficits can be met only if the countries can obtain foreign exchange to finance the necessary imports," Mr. LaGuardia said. "If imports cannot be financed, the countries cannot well face another food crisis in 1947, which would set back their slowly recovering industry and shatter their precarious financial structure."

Mr. LaGuardia said there was widespread starvation in China and economic recovery had been spasmodic and remained largely in the blueprint stage because, firstly, large scale shipments could not start until the seaports were opened; secondly, the country faced tremendous transportation problems; thirdly, the grave political situation there.

The Director said industrial production was being re-established in the seaports and industries which had been taken over from the Japanese were operating, but the personnel shortage and inflationary monetary situation were serious obstacles.

Rising exports were still only small, compared to imports, and the trade balance in 1947 would be heavily adverse, he revealed. Recent credits and the transfer of United States Army surpluses were substantial, but only a partial offset.

"In spite of the relatively large output indicated," stated Mr. LaGuardia, "China's food position for 1946-47 will still be precarious, since the disrupted transportation system does not permit the transfer of food from the abundant to the scarce areas."

He said the cotton crop would be less than one-half of the pre-war crop, so the textile industry would need imports.

Concrete Proposals
Mr. LaGuardia said in a letter accompanying the report that he requested he is prepared to submit to the United Nations Assembly concrete proposals on how relief needs should be met after UNRRA terminates its deliveries.

The report is by far the most detailed economic appraisal of China

and eastern Europe published since the end of war.

"Owing to losses of productive factors after the effects of actual fighting and severe drought in the Mediterranean area, the first post-war grain crop in UNRRA receiving countries was disastrously low," the report said.

Although the 1946 harvest will be considerably higher than 1945, it will still be substantially below pre-war and return to normal conditions will probably take years, it said, adding that none of the countries assisted by UNRRA will be self-sufficient in food during 1947.

Exchange Difficulties
Analyzing the economic position of individual countries in 1947, the report said: "With one or two possible exceptions, available foreign exchange resources will not permit countries to import enough foodstuffs to provide their people with an adequate minimum diet and at the same time to import raw materials and equipment for full industrial employment and agricultural supplies to maximise 1947 crops."

"In all countries export of industrial products is limited by the low level of industrial production, as well as by urgent demands of the home market."

The report listed the following among factors which restricted exports in receiving countries and which will continue to exist through the next year:

1. Currency over-valuation—Where inflation pushed prices out of line with the rate of exchange and commodities became too expensive for foreign buyers. This applied to most Chinese exports and Italian exports in 1945.

2. Disappearance of German marks—Due to Germany's geographical position its economic resources and exploitation of its political power the trade of eastern and southern Europe was widely concentrated on Germany several years before the war. 75-day this export outlet has disappeared altogether.

3. Inadequate monetary arrangements—Trade among eastern and western European countries is being conducted almost exclusively in the framework of barter arrangements. Provisions for balancing trade in both directions, which usually forms part of such agreements, tends to restrict the international turnover.

The final factor restricting imports was listed in the report as "political difficulties" which have prevented even barter agreements from being concluded between a number of countries.—Reuter and United Press.

SEVENTEEN DEAD IN CALCUTTA RIOTING

Calcutta, Oct. 27 (UP).—The Sunday Statesman said to-day that 17 persons were killed and 220 were injured in communal clashes yesterday.

Fifty cases of arson were reported and the police fired on mobs and used tear gas on several occasions to restore order.

It is feared that widespread disturbances occurred in North Calcutta after midnight last night but no details are yet available.

A London dispatch, quoting an Exchange Telegraph report from

Hajiganj, Dargah, to-day quoted Shamsuddin Ahmed, of the Bengal Government, as saying that the recent riots in that district had been caused by the long strained relationship between the Hindu landlords and the Muslim tenants.

This agency also reported that 300 troops of the Worcestershire Regiment

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Daring Raids By Greek Bandits In Macedonia

Athens, Oct. 27.—Quenching the premature optimism of the Greek military authorities, who had announced a noticeable decrease in the activity of armed bands in Macedonia, the guerrilla chief Ypsilantis, the most daring of the rebel leaders, struck again yesterday in a series of raids in Western Macedonia.

His men fiercely attacked gendarmerie posts outside the town of Naoussa and ransacked a northern suburb of the town, it was reported in Athens to-day.

Naoussa had already been raided on October 2. In the same region near the town of Edessa, 200 "bandits" were reported to be holding a hill position against the Greek Army detachments which have been attacking the position since yesterday afternoon.

In another incident attackers held up a convoy of six lorries and emptied them of their cargoes before letting them proceed.

The failure of the three-day-old negotiations for broadening the Greek Government by the inclusion of Opposition leaders was announced to-day. No official explanation has been given beyond the brief statement that "there is no possibility of collaboration between parties."

It is understood, however, that Mr. Constantinos Tsalikis, the Prime Minister, rejected the proposal of the Parliamentary Opposition leaders that he should give up the Premiership. It is believed in government quarters here that Mr. Tsalikis will, nevertheless, undertake a big Cabinet re-shuffle.—Reuter.

Prerequisite For De-Rationing In Britain

Dundee, Oct. 27.—The world food shortage will be "slowly but surely" overcome and then it will be possible to provide the British people with all the food they wished to buy, the Minister of Food, Mr. John Strachey, said in a speech here to-day.

Then, and not till then, would it be possible to de-ration the main foodstuffs one by one, said Mr. Strachey.

"To de-ration any particular foodstuff I have to get supply back to a substantially higher amount—30 or 40 per cent in many cases—than it was before the war."

He said there was no immediate prospect of bread being de-rationed. Because of the bad British harvest and transport troubles in North America it had been impossible to build up minimum stocks, which would make removal of the bread ration safe.

Declaring that while the rich were getting more rationed food than before the war, poor people were actually getting more, Mr. Strachey added:

"I could abolish rationing to-morrow and pile shops with food if I took off price control and allowed prices to tumble, but you could not get food at shops."—Reuter.

Italian Student Ex-POWs Beat Up Professors

Naples, Oct. 27 (UP).—Brawls between students and professors to-day forced the closing of the 700-year-old Naples University, one of Europe's most ancient educational institutions.

The closing order was issued by the Rector Magnificent after a group of students, former prisoners of war, failed to gain passing grades in their examinations and beat up their professor with an iron door handle.

The examinations have been suspended and the university closed pending a ruling on the disposition

of the students involved had been made by the Ministry of Education.

ALLEGED RIOTERS IN COURT

Kowloon Courtroom and the corridors leading to it were crowded with spectators this morning when 34 Chinese, including several juveniles, arrested during the rioting in Portland Street and Waterloo Road, Kowloon, on Saturday were arraigned on charges of disorderly conduct.

Also before the Court this morning was Ramzan Syed, of the Emergency Unit, Yaumatei, charged with the manslaughter of Wong Shui-cheung at Portland Street during the demonstrations.

The cases were brought before Mr. Lathimer and the men charged with disorderly conduct were remanded on \$250 bail for three days for further enquiries on the application of C.D.I. Mottram. Most of the men pleaded not guilty.

Ramzan Syed was remanded for one week on the application of ASP Tyrer who is prosecuting.

Bevin Appeals For Tolerance And Patience In UNO Deliberations

Southampton, Oct. 27.—Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, left here to-day in the liner Aquitania for New York to attend the United Nations meeting.

Speaking to the press on the nation's task, he said: "If there is goodwill, we ought to be able to get through; if there is not, then it is in the lap of the gods."

The world was in a disturbed condition but he was not pessimistic. It is no use after a world upheaval extending all over the planet to expect for a considerable period.

Stressing that there had to be an enormous amount of patience, tolerance and attempt to understand each other, Mr. Bevin said: "I am not disappointed that we have not moved faster than we have. If we had done things too quickly before difficulties emerged, we might have made a bad peace."

"By letting the difficulties come out and by facing them frankly and honestly, it will result in making a peace which one hopes will last for ever—or at least for many years. I do not despair of that."

It was not the polemics of platforms but what emerged in the conference room and in actual discussions that was most important. That was where the acid test was applied as to policy.

Referring to the meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Mr. Bevin said that if they could get the question of the Finnish, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Rumanian and Italian treaties settled, it would at least tend to settle one part of the world.

Then they had the question of Germany and the difficult problem of Austria before them.

Asked if he could say how long it would take to conclude the treaties, Mr. Bevin shook his head and said: "I never prophesy. The ordinary folk of the world are longing for peace and one must do one's best to try and get it."

The Aquitania, which also carried a large number of the members of the British delegation to the United States, will call at Cherbourg to-night to embark members of the French, United States and Russian delegations and is due at New York on November 2.—Reuter.

SINGAPORE STRIKE

Singapore, Oct. 27.—The strike of seven thousand Chinese and Indian dock labourers here continued to-day to hold up the loading and unloading of the bulk of shipping in Singapore harbour.

Talks conducted throughout the day between the strikers and the dock authorities were described as "inconclusive" by the Chairman of the Singapore Harbour Board.—Reuter.

of the students involved had been made by the Ministry of Education.

Another Soviet Blast Against Western Powers

London, Oct. 27 (UP).—Moscow radio broadcast Pravda's first comment on the veto fight in the United Nations meeting in New York to-day in which the newspaper's ace international writer charged the Western bloc was seeking to violate the San Francisco Charter binding the Big Five to unanimity on important decisions.

The international expert, Zhukov, who penned the Soviet reply to the Anglo-American criticism of Russia's free and easy use of the veto, warned that the "various clumsy attempts to destroy the principle of compulsory unanimity of the great Powers in decisions on important matters not only cannot help the cause of peace and security but are directed definitely against it."

Zhukov continued: "International collaboration is a great and noble task which can be achieved within the frame of UNO on condition of real observance by all. Co-operation of the peace-loving is based on a sound foundation acknowledging the general obligations of the Great States—Britain, France and China—to stand in solidarity on guard over general peace and unanimously to defend the principles of security of all nations, great and small. This fundamental principle is reflected in the statute adopted at the San Francisco Conference in 1945."

"Many serious problems face this session (of the United Nations). Solutions to some of them cannot be achieved without difficulty and struggle."

The very scope of the agenda—over 50 points—in itself a pretext for the premature attempts on the part of circles to limit the freedom, scope and meaning of discussion of the most important points.

"Lovers of mechanical voting and partisans of social and backstage machinations are apparently concerned beforehand with the possibility of speeches on UNO platform against this."

In the same article, Zhukov also replied to Mr. Bevin's foreign affairs speech in the House of Commons last week and reiterated accusations of British "imperialism in Greece and the Middle East."

Moscow radio also quoted the newspaper Trud's comment on the veto which interpreted the fight as

(Continued on Page 4)

British Troops To Leave Egypt In 27 Months?

Cairo, Oct. 27.—Well-informed circles believed to-day that British troops will be out of Egypt within 27 months and that Britain now recognises Egypt's rights to the Sudan as a result of Premier Sidky Pasha's trip to London.

These sources realise that the results of the talks between the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, and Egyptian Premier Sidky Pasha must be submitted to the scrutiny of both countries, but members of the Egyptian delegation who arrived at Almazra airport last night said the talks were very successful.

It is expected that the Egyptian delegation tackling the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty revision will approve the new formula which Sidky Pasha reportedly brought with him from London.

Possible opposition is expected from Makhrim Abaid Pasha. Sidky Pasha reportedly managed to get Mr. Bevin to accept the request that British troops should evacuate Egypt within two years and three months and that the principle of Egypt's rights—some circles even said sovereignty—to the Sudan would be recognised.

Sidky Pasha, it is said, got the British Foreign Secretary to agree that British troops should not re-enter Egypt on the threat of war while the Joint Defence Council would have only an advisory capacity on matters of mutual interest to the two countries.

Sidky Pasha received a great ovation on his arrival at the airport. Several thousand students and workers shouted slogans of praise for the Prime Minister and for the Liberal and Walafist leaders, Helkel Pasha and Nokrashy Pasha, who accompanied him to London.

The treaty revision talks, which originally started last May, broke down twice after reaching a deadlock.

Reuter's Diplomatic Correspondent in London states that British officials quailers to-day treated with

(Continued on Page 4)

Communists Allege Use Of Peace Talks As Screen For Offensive

NANKING, Oct. 28 (UP).—The Communist spokesman, Mei Yi, last night charged that the Government plot to push a nationwide offensive behind the smokescreen of peace talks was now more obvious and deplored the government capture of Antung in South Manchuria as part of the Government intention of taking over Manchuria.

In a strong statement, issued as the Communist delegate awaited Yenian instructions on the proposed propaganda truce, Mei Yi attacked alleged Government intentions of forcing the Communists to recognise the legality of Government occupation of Communist-held areas and the removal of popularly elected local administrations within China proper, as well as Government rights to take any part of Manchuria under the pretext of taking over former Japanese-occupied Manchuria.

The statement revealed for the first time the new dispute involving Hainan Island, where the Communists claimed their forces had been fighting the Japanese until the end of the war and that they should be recognised as Communist troops. It was indicated that the Government had been considering these forces "bandits."

Third party members, however, indicated that they were determined to carry on their mediation efforts and some of them pointed out that the Government capture of Antung was fresh proof that a cease-fire must be arranged as soon as possible to avoid further aggravation of the situation. They said they believed President Chiang Kai-shek's return to Nanking to make the final decision on the cessation of hostilities was now essential.

Reports from Shanghai indicated that Generalissimo Chiang was returning to Nanking either to-day or to-morrow, after a brief stay in Formosa. The Generalissimo and Madame Chiang yesterday visited the Soviet family graveyard in the Shanghai suburbs and called on Mr. W. H. Donald, their Australian adviser, who is in hospital from the effects of his four-year internment in Manila by the Japanese.

Third party officials disclosed in Nanking last night that they had completed drafting the mediation proposal and had exchanged opinions with Dr. Sun Fo, Government officials reportedly found the proposal acceptable and interpreted the Government's eight-point proposal enunciated by President Chiang recently.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that the Government had even prepared to postpone the National Assembly briefly in order to allow Third Party representatives time to persuade the Communists to submit their list of delegates to the Assembly. The reports said, however, that this depended on the progress of mediation this week.

In Shanghai, two third party members, Shen Chung-jun and Kuo Mo-jou, told the press that they were continuing mediation efforts and found the United States mediators (Gen. George Marshall and Ambassador Leighton Stuart) were most helpful in their efforts in the same direction.

Hamburg, Oct. 27 (UP).—The court martial of seven British officers found and sentenced the trial finding and sentencing of Capt. Frederick James William Stewart, accused of murdering his command officer will be promulgated. Stewart is accused of killing Maj. Murdoch Ross Davidson in the billet the two officers share.

Despite the vociferous press campaign by the opposing parties and sorts of accusations, the elections were conducted in an orderly and obviously fair manner and the German police reported no disturbances in the Russian sector, huge post calls on the women of Berlin to vote for the East Party. But it was women who turned the city's face the West—even in the Russian sector. They had roughly two-thirds the votes. They voiced how capital of Germany will be admitted internally and in the words of the Social Democratic chief, Schumacher: "A new face of Germany has been presented to the world."—Reuter.

Several arrests were made during an early morning search of the German quarter of Jerusalem but those detained were allowed to return to their homes after screening.

Jewish sources in Tel Aviv disclosed that wireless communication with the ship was interrupted at 4 p.m. yesterday and it is believed the vessel may reach territorial waters within hours.

Berlin, Oct. 27.—Berlin has turned its face to the west—and it was women who did the job. The city's municipal elections have ended in triumph for the western-supported Social Democrats in all four zones of Berlin. Even the party chiefs were surprised when the Berliners in the Russian sector turned their backs on the Soviet supported Socialist Unity Party and voted Social Democrats to the top of the poll.

The Russians made no secret of their support of the Unity Party—a fusion of the Communist Party and the defuncting sections of the Social Democratic Party in the Russian zone—and were prepared to regard Berlin as a strong political platform for the eventual administration of Germany if Berliners had only voted as the Unity Party chiefs had expected.

No one pretended that the city council elections were a purely German affair. The amount of "gifts" before the election from Russian, British and American sources belied any professions of disinterestedness. Only the French appeared aloof from the scramble to gain the favour of the average Berliner.

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Traces Of Neolithic Age On Hitherto Impenetrable Plateau

TRACES of hitherto unknown civilisation have been found by a scientific expedition which returned recently from the task of charting the vast 1,000 feet high tableland rising in Central Asia between the Aral and Caspian Seas, known as the Ust-Urt Plateau, hitherto thought impenetrable.

Hemmed in by the two seas and the fierce heat of the Central Asian desert, the plateau had long been a magnet for explorers but none had penetrated beyond its fringes. Mapping of the 100,000 square kilometre territory was undertaken by an expedition from the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek Republic at Tashkent, headed by Professor Yevgeny Kerovin.

Their exploration has put on the map one of the few great uncharted areas that remained in the world.

Three Russian travellers, who visited the region in the 18th Century, and the Russian explorer Neustruyev, who went there in the early years of this Century, failed to penetrate into the heart of the plateau.

Among the most significant of the Uzbek expedition's discoveries is the fact that the region is not a desert but has possibilities as a breeding area for herds.

"For a good part of the year and especially in the spring the plateau is covered with vegetation," Professor Kerovin reported. "This withers during the summer under the scorching rays of the Central Asian sun."

"We also confirmed the hitherto unverified assumption that the Ust-Urt had once been the scene of human habitation. To the traces of man in the Neolithic age discovered in the past in the northern part of the plateau, we have now added relics of material culture of later epochs which indicate that man dwelt on the Ust-Urt plateau until comparatively recently."

Among these relics reported by the expedition are small mauseoleums of a type entirely unknown to previous explorations, which dot the interior of the plateau.

Their architecture is unique. In most cases the mauseoleums are a square structure built of uncut slabs of coloured limestone surmounted by an Oriental-looking spherical cupola which tapers to a point. Nothing bearing any resemblance to them has been found anywhere in Central Asia.

"Under the rays of the bright southern sun and against the background of the cloudless sky, the brightly coloured mauseoleums in spite of their small size, can be seen for long distances," the professor said.

"Judging by the inscriptions on them, they house the remains of the chieftains and elders of the various nomadic tribes that once dwelt in Ust-Urt. They are evidence that these tribes had acquired a high level of culture in spite of their nomadic life."

He continues: "Other traces of the handiwork of man include the remains of numerous wells and, a broad highway that once crossed the plateau from north to south."

The Uzbek authorities now propose to turn the entire plateau into a large breeding area for caracul sheep and camels, and the Ust-Urt pastures are considered sufficient with modern methods, to feed large herds. Building of roads across the plateau, one following the course of the ancient track discovered by the expedition, is also part of the plan.—Reuter.

Bid For Separation Of The Ruhr From Germany

Lille, Oct. 27 (UP).—Premier Georges Bidault told a political gathering at Lille to-day that he hoped to gain the support of states bordering on Germany for the separation of the Ruhr and the Rhineland from Germany.

M. Bidault said he would seek this support at the forthcoming meeting of the Foreign Ministers Council in New York.

Referring to the Paris Peace conference, M. Bidault said France had come out of that verbal wrestling "much intact."

He said, "It was moreover decided that at the end of November, the question of Germany would come before the Big Four, to which I hope to be able to associate the bordering Powers of Germany. In the meantime we have guarded all our rights. We have not engaged the future."

Pegging Of German Mark Possible

Frankfurt, Oct. 27. (UP).—Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, deputy United States Military Governor, said to-day that no decision had been reached on pegging the blocked German mark at 30 cents (US) but admitted that the whole subject is under discussion.

NO STABILITY IN EUROPE WITHOUT UNITED STATES

Boston, Oct. 27.—The United States deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Vice-Admiral Forrest Sherman, declared in a speech here last night that the United States must have sea and air control of the North Atlantic and North Pacific.

"There is no stability and no balance of power in Europe without us," he said.

He warned Americans that sea and air control of the North Atlantic and North Pacific areas was prerequisite for the defence of the Western Hemisphere.

An air attack against the United States was possible via the Arctic but it would not be decisive if the United States had adequate ability to retaliate in kind.

He was speaking during the celebration of Navy Day.—Reuter.

Gen. Clay said, "Before becoming effective, a quadripartite agreement would have to be reached because such an agreement would affect all occupying countries."



Clifford Curzon, the distinguished British pianist, photographed at the piano during a recent broadcast from the British Broadcasting Corporation studio.

Although an internationally famed pianist, Clifford Curzon describes himself as a "real Cockney." He started his career in London with early successes, making his debut as a soloist at a Promenade Concert under Sir Henry Wood when he was sixteen. At the Royal Academy of Music he won the Pollack Exhibition, the Thubert Scholarship and several other important honours, becoming a sub-professor at sixteen and later a professor of the Royal Academy. Temporarily giving up his professorship, he went to study under Schubert in Berlin, where he had a great success in 1923. The following year he toured Germany and appeared in Vienna before returning to England to take up again his professorship at the R.A.M. Eventually, however, in 1931, the pressure of his exhaustive concert engagements forced him to leave the Royal Academy.

An expressive player, he once sent his hot-blooded playing smashing to the floor with a toss of his head during a recital. It was just before a difficult passage from Liszt but he finished the programme without them, despite the fact that he is very short-sighted.

Yugo-Slav Reply To Slave Labour Allegations

Belgrade, Oct. 27 (UP).—The Foreign Office spokesman charged last night at a press conference that the recent American complaints that United States citizens were used as slave labour were made after Yugo-Slavia had proved fully its co-operative attitude and goodwill.

The spokesman said the Government had shown its stand by granting exit visas to 80 Volksdeutsche claimed as American citizens by the American Embassy in Belgrade.

The American actions referred to were the note of October 18 and Ambassador C. Patterson's statement of October 20.

The spokesman said American Embassy officials had confirmed in conversation with Yugo-Slavs that the Yugo-Slav attitude on the problem of repatriation of American citizens was satisfactory and it was assumed that the release of the note was due to an error.

The Yugo-Slav Government accordingly requested that new statement be released by the American Embassy correcting the impression made by the note and the earlier statement. The Embassy replied, however, that the statement would not be issued.

A Yugo-Slav official described the overall American diplomatic action as an attempt to conceal the facts and the spokesman reiterated that the Volksdeutsche for whom the American Embassy would prove United States citizenship.

The spokesman told the press conference, held after the departure of Ambassador Patterson, that his Government had undertaken to make inquiries at all camps for claimants of American citizenship and had received two lists of approximately 50 or 60 which had been forwarded to the American Embassy.

NOTICE

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NOTICE

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The British Campaign In Persia And Iraq

WHEN the Germans were enjoying the flood-tide of their then successful campaign in South Russia (in the summer of 1942) the British War Office were in anxious communication with Gen Sir H. Maitland Wilson, who was Commander-in-Chief, Persia and Iraq Command. He tells the story in his despatch covering the period August 21, 1942, to February 17, 1943, which has just been released for publication.

"The initial successes gained by the Germans during the summer of 1942 in their South Russian offensive made it necessary to take account of the possibility that they might succeed in occupying the whole of Caucasus and later of undertaking an invasion of Persia" says the General.

"Simultaneously their advance into Egypt not only denied to the Commander-in-Chief Middle East, for the time, the freedom to move forces rapidly from Egypt to Persia—the basis of previous plans for the defence of the latter country—but led also to the withdrawal from Tenth Army of troops, equipment and transport to reinforce the Eighth Army in Egypt."

"Early in August, 1942, it was estimated, by the War Office and by General Headquarters Middle East, that in the circumstances most favourable to them the Germans might succeed in reaching the River Araxes in North Persia by late October. Unless therefore immediate steps had been taken to strengthen the defence of Persia, the enemy might have been allowed an opportunity to follow up success in the Caucasus by striking at the oil fields and installations at the head of the Persian Gulf, and on the security of these the Allied war effort in the Middle East, India and the Far East largely depended."

In addition to his task of defending the oil field and oil installations Sir H. Maitland Wilson had the equally important responsibility of ensuring continuance of the flow of Aid to Russia supplies through the Persian Gulf ports, and his despatch shows how often these two tasks met in conflict in the early months. Conditions were not improved by the Russian unwillingness to accept help from the British Army and Royal Air Force in its defence of the Caucasus.

The only troops available in September, 1942, in Persia and Iraq to meet a German invasion were two Indian Divisions and one Indian Armoured Division. Of these, the former had each only two infantry brigades and were below establishment and deficient in artillery, engineers and signals, and the latter had no medium tanks; both were short of transport.

German Advance Held. Fortunately the Russians held up the German advance sufficiently to allow time for strengthening troops to reach Persia and Iraq. A Polish Army in the East was being assembled at Kharkov, two British divisions the 5th and 50th were diverted to Sir H. Maitland Wilson's Command, and these were to be followed by the 7th British Armoured Brigade from India and the 5th Indian and 3rd Carpathian Polish Divisions from the Middle East.

Other measures then met the General. There was a dire shortage of motor vehicles of all types and a serious paucity of resources for the repair of those which did exist, to say nothing of shortage of manpower. The General estimated at one time during these hazardous operations that after expelling all available local resources his supply of skilled men was 15,000 short of requirements. This, in such a mountainous country was a very serious matter.

As the Russian held out at Stalingrad and in the North Caucasus, the probable date of a German advance into Persia was put back, first to November 15, 1942, and then to April 15, 1943. Gen. Maitland Wilson made good use of the breathing space and he says of his plans: "I was still not in a position to maintain sufficient forces far enough forward to make sure of stopping the enemy before he reached the Ardabil group of airfields about Ardabil. Therefore, to secure these areas for as long as possible and subsequently to defeat the enemy South and South West of Minch if he should succeed in advancing so far."

Entrusted To Poles. "The defence of Northern Iraq against attack from Lake Urmia I proposed to entrust to the Polish Army in the East, assisted by troops of the Iraqi Army. One aspect in the situation which gave cause for some anxiety was the time required to get the forces in position and ready to meet the German thrust if it should come."

"To ensure the greatest flow of aid to Russia; not only had the bulk of Tenth Army been withdrawn some 500 miles from its deployment area, but the preparation of the lines of communication, on which would depend had been retarded. Furthermore the decision to curtail or suspend the supply of material aid to Russia, to permit of my forces being maintained in their forward operational areas, would have been fraught with many difficulties, both political and military; clearly it had to be deferred to the last possible moment and would have called for very careful timing."

Alongside all these purely military problems, were political dangers and fifth column activities. "In October, 1942," says the General, "a political crisis occurred in Teheran in connection with the provision of paper currency for allied use; arrangements were made in consultation with the British Minister in Teheran, for a force of one British Brigade to be prepared to move to Teheran at short notice. This crisis was eventually averted without recourse to the use of troops. In December, shortages of food in

the capital led to trouble, which culminated in rioting between December 8 and 10. The rioting subsided on the arrival of a British Infantry Battalion at Teheran, without the necessity for military action; some minor accidental casualties were sustained.

Fifth Column Plot. "Investigations over a considerable period culminated in the discovery of an extensive plot instigated by the German agent Meyer and others, to organise Fifth Column activities in Persia in preparation for the expected German invasion. This plot involved a Persian Cabinet Minister, three Members of Parliament, eleven Generals and many other senior officers of the army as well as the Quashghali tribes. Early in December General Zahedi, who was implicated, was arrested in Isfahan, and this had a steady effect."

Throughout his despatch the General refers time and again to the special difficulties that arose out of the obligations to ensure maintenance of the flow of Allied supplies to Russia, in an area where neither ports nor railways or other transport facilities were ever really efficient or sufficient. Describing these shortcomings in detail, the General adds: "These are the main reasons why, prior to and during my tenure of command, the volume of goods moved forward from the Persian Gulf ports to Russia has consistently fallen short of expectations."

He adds some very significant comments on another obstacle—which he termed "the low standard of commercial morality prevalent in Persia which has led employees of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation (the consignee in Britain of all 'Aid to Russia' stores) to exploit the absence of supervision."

Transport Malpractices. "At the time I assumed command," he goes on, "the shortage of personnel to check malpractices in the road transport was reached by senior officials of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation and of the Ministry of State's Office, the Commanding General United States Persian Gulf Service Command, and others concerned. At this conference decisions were reached that my General Headquarters should assume the general direction of the road transport activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation; and that it should become responsible for maintaining its fleet of vehicles, and should take over and hold the large stocks of motor transport which had already arrived for the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation or were on the water. I was then able to make available a certain number of experienced transport officers to assist the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation officials, and to organise a system to assist in supervising the working of the service. Later, at the request of the Russian authorities, certain military transport units were allocated to carrying Russian stores, to ensure that ammunition and certain other types of stores remained in military charge throughout. The results of these measures are not yet fully apparent, but a gradual improvement is being made in the working of the road transport service in Persia."

Then, in December, 1942, came American troops to assist in remedying the manpower shortage, and the process of changing British to United States Army administration and control of the ports and transport systems was still going on at the time this particular despatch was closed. Sir H. Maitland Wilson however, permits himself this comment.

"In fairness to the personnel of the British Army, I wish to place on record that the arrival of United States Army troops to relieve them has come at a time when much of the heavy work of preparation and development is at an end and about to show results."

Promotion Of Health Projects In China

Nanking, Oct. 27.—A five-day National Health Conference will take place here under the chairmanship of Dr. P. L. King, Director of the National Health Administration, beginning on November 1. It was announced here to-day. The conference will map out a plan for the promotion of health projects in the country. Directors of different provincial and municipal health bureaux and responsible officials of the subordinate health organisations have been summoned to the meeting. It is learned that more than 130 proposals have been submitted to the Preparatory Committee, and that the conference will be concerned with the rehabilitation of health organisations and improvement of health work in recovered areas.—Central News.

Final Showings To-day

QUEEN'S

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

20th Century-Fox Presents

"TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI"

(In Technicolor)

Starring

John Payne * Maureen O'Hara * Randolph Scott

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LEE THEATRE

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE DAILY AT 12.00 NOON.

TOM TYLER * JEANNE BATES

IN

"THE PHANTOM"

LAST 4 SHOWS TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

EDWARD G. ROBINSON * GLENN FORD

IN

"DESTROYER"

COMMENCING TO-MORROW

TIM MCCOY

IN

"ACES AND EIGHTS"

SHOWING TO-DAY

MAJESTIC

At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

TRULY GREAT DRAMA!

LASSIE COME HOME

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with RODDY MCDOWALL * DONALD CRISP

And LASSIE, the wonderful dog star

An M-G-M TRIUMPH!

NEXT CHANGE

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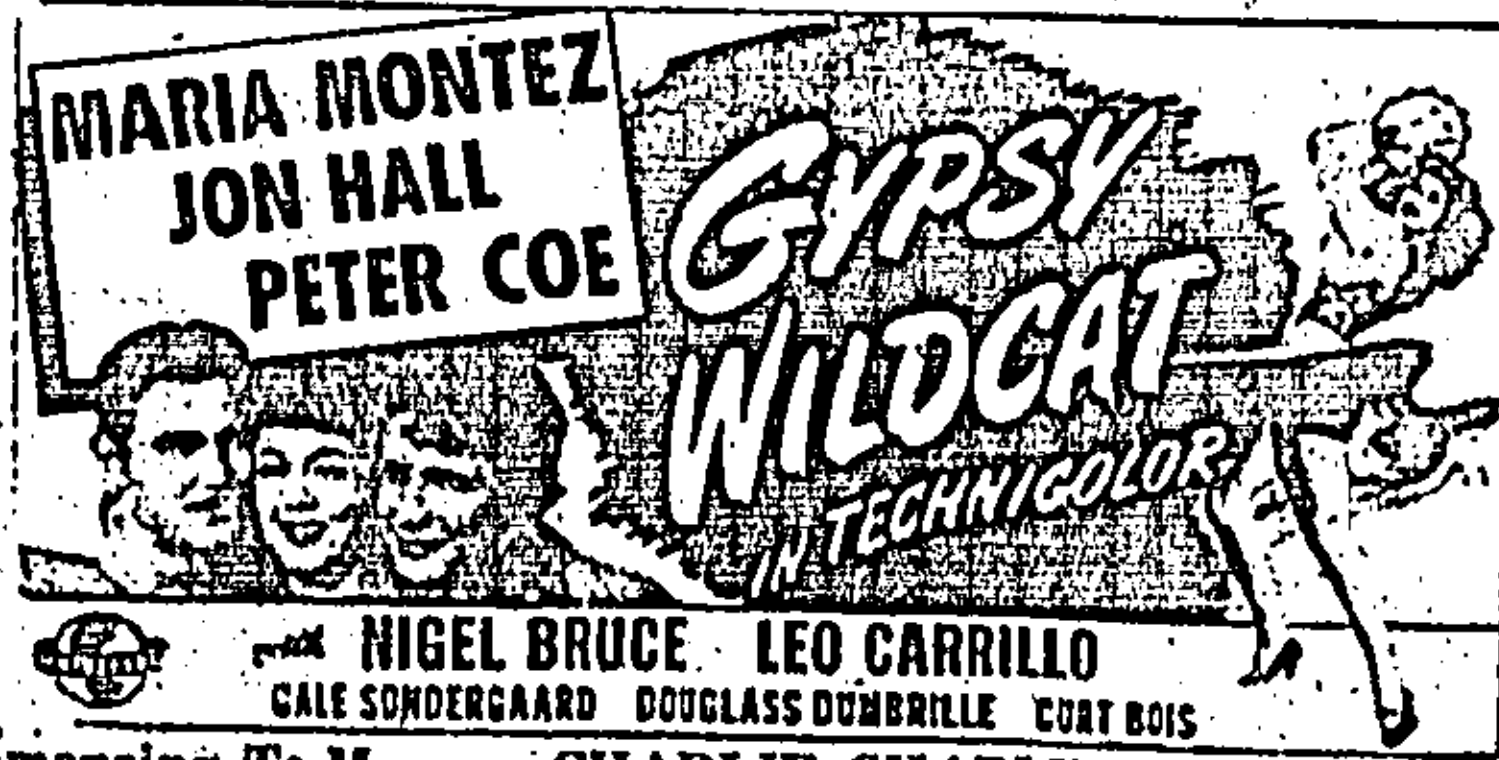
SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I appreciate a gag once in a while, but falling asleep when I try out my after-dinner speech isn't funny—can't they ever be serious?"

ORIENTAL

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.30—9.30
STILL PACKING IN! DON'T MISS THIS PICTURE!



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